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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical connector for interconnecting a pair of flat circuits, comprising:
a housing having a front mating face, a rear terminating face, a top face and a bottom face
for mounting on a first flat circuit, the housing including a cavity for receiving a second flat
circuit with the cavity having an insertion opening in the front mating face of the housing, and
5 the housing having at least one through passage extending from the top face through the bottom
face thereof;
a plurality of terminals mounted in the housing along said cavity, the terminals having
contact portions for engaging appropriate circuit contacts on the second flat circuit when the
second flat circuit is inserted through said opening into the cavity; and
0 a reinforcing member having a body portion inserted into said through passage in the
housing from the top face thereof and including a foot portion exposed at the bottom face of the
housing for securing to the first flat circuit, and the reinforcing member having a locking portion
extending oblique to the body portion and engageable with a locking surface on the housing.
2. The electrical connector of claim 1 including a pair of said through passages and a
corresponding pair of said reinforcing members at opposite sides of the housing.
3. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein said pair of through passages are
located in the housing outside opposite ends of said cavity.
4. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said housing is fabricated of dielectric
plastic material and said reinforcing member is fabricated of metal material.
5. The electrical connector of claim 4 wherein said reinforcing member includes a
plurality of claws for skiving into the plastic material of the housing within the through passage.

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6. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said reinforcing member is generally L-shaped, with the body portion and the locking portion of the reinforcing member forming respective oblique legs of the L-shape.

7. The electrical connector of claim 6 wherein the body portion and the locking portion of said reinforcing member are generally planar.

8. The electrical connector of claim 7 wherein the top face of the housing includes a recess for receiving the locking portion of said reinforcing member generally flush with the top face.

9. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said through passage is generally L-shaped to define a first leg extending from the top face through the bottom face of the housing and a second, oblique leg forming a recess in the top face of the housing for receiving the locking portion of the reinforcing member generally flush with the top face.

10. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said body portion of the reinforcing member is generally planar, and said locking portion is in the form of a locking arm coplanar with and projecting outwardly of the body portion.

11. The electrical connector of claim 10, including a pair of said locking arms projecting outwardly from opposite sides of the body portion.

12. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said body portion of the reinforcing member is generally planar, and said foot portion is bent into a U-shaped configuration to define a tangent line of securement with the first flat circuit.

13. The electrical connector of claim 12 wherein said reinforcing member is stamped and formed of sheet metal material.

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14. The electrical connector of claim 12 wherein said U-shaped foot portion is soldered to an appropriate securing pad on the first flat circuit along said tangent line of securement.

15. An electrical connector for interconnecting a pair of flat circuits, comprising:
a housing fabricated of dielectric plastic material and having a front mating face, a rear terminating face, a top face and a bottom face for mounting on a first flat circuit, the housing including a cavity for receiving a second flat circuit with the cavity having an insertion opening
5 in the front mating face of the housing, and the housing having a pair of through passages extending from the top face through the bottom face thereof, each through passage being generally L-shaped to define a first leg extending from the top face through the bottom face of the housing and a second, oblique leg forming a recess in the top face of the housing;

a plurality of terminals mounted in the housing along said cavity, the terminals having
0 contact portions for engaging appropriate circuit contacts on the second flat circuit when the second flat circuit is inserted through said opening into the cavity; and

a pair of reinforcing members fabricated of metal material and having a body portions inserted into said pair of through passages in the housing from the top face thereof, the reinforcing members including feet portions exposed at the bottom face of the housing for
5 securing to the first flat circuit, each reinforcing member being generally L-shaped corresponding to the L-shape of the through passages, with the body portion forming one leg of the L-shape and a locking portion extending oblique to the body portion and forming an oblique leg of the L-shape, the locking portion being engageable with a locking surface on the housing.

16. The electrical connector of claim 15 wherein said pair of through passages are located in the housing outside opposite ends of said cavity.

17. The electrical connector of claim 15 wherein said reinforcing members include a plurality of claws for skiving into the plastic material of the housing within the through passage.

18. The electrical connector of claim 15 wherein the body portion and the locking portion of each reinforcing member are generally planar.

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19. The electrical connector of claim 15 wherein the body portion of each reinforcing member is generally planar, and including an additional locking portion in the form of a locking arm coplanar with and projecting outwardly of the body portion.

20. The electrical connector of claim 19, including a pair of said locking arms projecting outwardly from opposite sides of the body portion.

21. The electrical connector of claim 15 wherein said body portion of each reinforcing member is generally planar and the foot portion thereof is bent into a U-shaped configuration to define a tangent line of securement with the first flat circuit.

22. The electrical connector of claim 21 wherein said reinforcing members are stamped and formed of sheet metal material.

23. The electrical connector of claim 21 wherein said U-shaped foot portion is soldered to an appropriate securing pad on the first flat circuit along said tangent line of securement.

24. An electrical connector for interconnecting a pair of flat circuits, comprising:
a housing having a front mating face, a rear terminating face, a top face and a bottom face for mounting on a first flat circuit, the housing including a cavity for receiving a second flat circuit with the cavity having an insertion opening in the front mating face of the housing, and
5 the housing having at least one through passage extending from the top face through the bottom face thereof;

a plurality of terminals mounted in the housing along said cavity, the terminals having contact portions for engaging appropriate circuit contacts on the second flat circuit when the second flat circuit is inserted through said opening into the cavity; and

0 a reinforcing member having a generally planar body portion inserted into said through passage in the housing from the top face thereof and including a foot portion exposed at the bottom face of the housing for securing to the first flat circuit, said foot portion being bent into a U-shaped configuration to define a tangent line of securement with the first flat circuit.

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25. The electrical connector of claim 24 wherein said reinforcing member is stamped and formed of sheet metal material.

26. The electrical connector of claim 24 wherein said U-shaped foot portion is soldered to an appropriate securing pad on the first flat circuit along said tangent line of securement.